

SAFETY

In early 2004 the Safety Officer's position was modified from having to wait an average of 30 minutes on a responder to show up from their home and changed to using existing shift personnel instead. This allowed a reduction of 1 take home vehicle and put 1 person back on shift.

The Safety Committee began to routinely operate on a structured format that called for regular monthly meetings to be held on the last weekday of each month at 1pm. The directive was given for the Union to provide Management with a list of agenda items they would like to discuss at the upcoming meeting by the 15th of that same month. This allows better productivity to have time to efficiently address any real safety concerns instead of wasting time in a non-structured format.

In January 2004 we began the routine of annual testing on the following equipment by UL standards: Pumps, Aerial Ladders & Ground Ladders.

We have also begun the annual posi-check testing of all air packs.

Annual testing of heating and air conditioning systems has recently been implemented.

Smoke and CO detectors have been installed in every building that has sleeping quarters on the Fire Department.

New diesel exhaust filtering systems have been installed in Fire Stations # 2 & 6. Existing diesel exhaust systems in Fire Stations # 3 & 11 were updated to match up with new equipment.

We have begun the tedious process of the GPS mapping of every fire hydrant in the City limits. This will not only give us the exact location of each one but it will also give us more accurate information as to the water main size and the color coding for quick reference. This will also help us to report specific problems to the Water Company in order to get them quickly corrected.

A new electronic personnel accountability system called Fire Trax is being implemented and should be fully functional very soon.

Several Tracker search devices have been purchased and are in the testing phase. The Tracker devices help to find any personnel that may become lost or trapped. If the testing proves successful, the plan is to outfit each air pack with the Tracker devices.